

We Claim:

1. A container for dispensing individual paper products, the container comprising:

 a housing including side walls and a bottom wall
5 defining an interior surface and an interior area within the interior surface;

 a cover hingedly or removably attached to the housing wherein the cover defines a dispensing opening;

 a spring disposed in the interior area of the housing;
10 and

 a plunger disposed in the interior area of the housing wherein the spring is compressed between the plunger and at least one of the walls, and further wherein the plunger is urged toward the dispensing opening by the spring.

15 2. The container of claim 1 wherein the plunger comprises a truncated cone.

 3. The container of claim 2 wherein the truncated cone comprises a bottom surface having a diameter substantially equivalent to the diameter of the spring.

20 4. The container of claim 2 further wherein the plunger comprises at least one stabilizing wing.

 5. The container of claim 4 wherein the at least one stabilizing wing has an outer edge that contacts the inside surface of the housing to prevent the plunger from
25 binding in the housing.

 6. The container of claim 1 further comprising an internal platform in contact with the plunger.

7. The container of claim 6 wherein the internal platform comprises notches to minimize contact of the internal platform with the internal surface of the housing.

8. The container of claim 6 further comprising
5 paper products contained within the housing wherein the paper products are urged toward the dispensing opening by the internal platform.

9. The container of claim 8 wherein the internal platform applies substantially constant pressure against the
10 paper products.

10. A system for dispensing individual paper products, the system comprising:

the container of claim 1; and

a cartridge containing paper products, the cartridge
15 defining a second opening, the second opening being adapted for receiving the plunger wherein the plunger extends through the second opening into the interior area of the cartridge to contact the paper products and urge the paper products toward the dispensing opening.

20 11. The system of claim 10 wherein the cartridge comprises cartridge side walls, a first end wall defining a third opening for dispensing the paper products, and a second end wall opposing the first end wall, wherein the second opening is defined by the second end wall.

25 12. The system of claim 11 wherein the cartridge further comprises an internal platform that engages the plunger.

13. The system of claim 12 wherein the cartridge further comprises platform supports, wherein the platform supports support the internal platform within the cartridge when the cartridge is being inserted in the housing.

5 14. The system of claim 10 wherein the cartridge further comprises a removable portion, removal of the removable portion creating the second opening.

15. The system of claim 14 wherein the removable portion comprises at least one flap.

10 16. The system of claim 10 wherein the container comprises tabs positioned on the interior surface of the housing, and further wherein the cartridge defines slots positioned to engage the tabs to prevent insertion of the cartridge when the cartridge is improperly oriented.

15 17. The system of claim 16 wherein the slots are defined within a side wall of the cartridge.

18. The system of claim 16 wherein the cartridge comprises flaps, wherein the flaps open to receive the plunger, and further wherein the flaps define the slots, and
20 even further wherein the slots are positioned to engage the tabs when the flaps are open to receive the plunger and when the cartridge is improperly oriented.

19. The system of claim 10 wherein the spring applies substantially constant pressure against the paper
25 products.

20. The system of claim 10 wherein the container is positioned within a supporting structure.

21. The system of claim 20 wherein the cover is flush with the supporting structure.

22. The system of claim 20 wherein the cover extends slightly from the supporting structure.

5 23. The system of claim 20 wherein the container is supported within the supporting structure by flanges intersecting the side walls at the edges farthest from the bottom wall.

24. The system of claim 20 wherein the paper
10 products are urged toward the dispensing opening in a substantially vertical direction.

25. A container for dispensing individual paper products, the container comprising:

 a housing including side walls and a bottom wall
15 defining an interior surface and an interior area within the interior surface for receiving a plurality of the paper products;

 a cover hingedly or removably attached to the housing wherein the cover defines a dispensing opening;

20 a means for elevating paper products; and

 a plunger disposed in the interior area of the housing wherein the means for elevating paper products is positioned between the plunger and at least one of the walls, and further wherein the plunger is urged toward the dispensing
25 opening.

26. A system for dispensing individual paper products, the system comprising:

the container of claim 25; and

a cartridge containing paper products, the cartridge defining a dispensing opening and a second opening wherein the means for elevating paper products extends through the second opening into the interior area of the cartridge to contact the paper products and urge the paper products toward the dispensing opening.

27. A container for dispensing individual paper products, the container comprising:

10 a housing including side walls and a bottom wall defining an interior surface and an interior area within the interior surface for receiving a plurality of the paper products, and a cover defining a dispensing opening for removal of paper products from the interior area,

15 a spring-loaded plunger disposed in the interior area of the housing for elevating the paper products toward the dispensing opening.

28. The container of claim 27, wherein the container contains a cartridge having an interior area containing paper products, the cartridge having a first end and a second end, the first end having a first opening for dispensing of paper products, the second end having a second opening through which the spring-loaded plunger extends into the interior area of the cartridge.